

6-2-1,2,3

Different Strokes for Different Folks

Grade Level	Sixth
Minimum Time Required	30 Minutes
Materials/Resources	None
Subject Area(s)	Guidance

Project Description:

1. Many students evaluate characteristics of others in terms of right or wrong. This lesson demonstrates that differences between people are normal and inevitable and must be tolerated. Students must learn to accept and relate to others who are different from themselves.
2. Introduce the idea that many differences among people are O.K. Explain that people have different interests, abilities, values, and ideas that make them different. Explain and give examples of how people have different interests, abilities, values, and ideas. Some of these differences are easy to accept and some are not.
3. Draw a continuous line on the chalkboard with "strongly agree" at one end and "strongly disagree" at the other. Explain the idea of a continuum. Present various statements and instruct the students to evaluate the degree to which the statement applies to them. If feasible, ask the class members to stand at the appropriate point on the continuum. Only a part of the class may stand at one time if the class is large.

Remind the students that it is okay to be in a spot different from the other students. Structure the statements so that the first few are more neutral in the way differing responses are likely to be evaluated.

Some possible statements are:

- a) Baseball is my favorite sport.
 - b) I like to try new kinds of foods.
 - c) After school, I like to be by myself for awhile.
 - d) I like to have a lot of friends.
 - e) Being successful in school is the most important thing to me.
4. Discuss the exercise, focusing on ranking oneself with some statements relative to others. Ask whether or not it was easier to be "different" from the majority on some statements rather than others.
 5. Re-emphasize the importance of accepting the differences in all cases. Bring up types of differences that might cause intolerance among students. Remind students that the same tolerances should apply in areas such as race, religion, or economic background.

Career Development Standard	Skills to interact positively with others.
Career Development Indicator	Demonstrate respect for the feelings and beliefs of others. Demonstrate an appreciation for the similarities and differences among people. Demonstrate tolerance and flexibility in interpersonal and group situations.
Delivery Level	Introductory
Academic Standards	
Language Arts	4.1.b Present oral information in a logical and coherent manner. 4.2.c Use recognized convention/mechanics of language in personal communication.
Employability/SCANS Skills	Thinking Skills, Basic Skills, Personal Qualities
Assessment/Rubric	Students will be evaluated based on class participation.

Submitted by: SD Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program Model